

Application No. 09/920,435

Filed: August 1, 2001

TC Art Unit: 1639

Confirmation No.: 6450

REMARKS

This application was initially subjected to a Restriction Requirement (paper no. 5) between Group I, which the Examiner designated as "a method of screening a natural sample using a non-competitive assay," and Group II, which the Examiner designated as "a method of screening a natural sample using a competitive assay." The Applicants argued the restriction (paper no. 6) but elected the claims of Group I for prosecution and canceled claims 15-20.

The claims of Group I have now been allowed in a Notice of Allowance mailed May 26, 2005. As the form in which claim 1 was allowed would encompass the embodiments of the method claimed in the claims of Group II, the Applicants now respectfully request removal of the Restriction Requirement and rejoinder of Group II. New claims 23-28 are added herein to replace canceled claims 15-20.

In a telephone interview on July 21, 2005 with the Applicants' undersigned attorney, Examiner Epperson said that the Applicants' view of the scope of the allowed claims is correct and that he will remove the Restriction Requirement.

Based on the remarks presented herein, removal of the Restriction Requirement and allowance of the application with all of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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